Mrs. Mary Ferrell
4406 Holland Ave.,
Dallas, TX 75219-2133

12/22/93

Dear Mary,

With too little time to return to writing in my convoluted hours I'm glad to tell you what I remember about this newest Memphis Madness. It has no credibility at all.

A former city editor of Hodding Carter's paper, Bill Sartor, was no longer with it, was in Memphis when King was killed, and filed a few stories for Time magazine. It is he who started that Liberto business with a story he attributed to a rural black grocer in a county that had had considerable racial problems, name McFerren. McFerren's story had no credibility and when the FBI got him into a hotel to talk according to their reports there was nothing to it. The story is that when he was at Liberto's produce place he heard someone holler into the phone to go down to New Orleans and get his 5Gs, something like that, in a context that suggested it was for killing King.

Sartor was writing a crazy book about it when he either ODed or something like that.

Probably also an alcoholic, not now sure.

What I've read of his stuff does not stack.

His former wife, also a former reporter, Jan Scudder, was in NYC working in p.r. for a large petroleum corporation, perhaps Texaco, when I interviewed her. She gave me what she had of Bill's stuff and tried to get his mother in Texas to do that but the mother would not. In what I saw that was nothing but Sartor's imagination.

Can you imagine any public shouting about getting paid for killing someone, more such an assassination?

When I first knew Wayne Chastain he was a reporter for the Memphis evening paper, since defunct. He and I were friends. I liked him. He wrote for Computers and Animation, about the man he called the sausage and eggs man. He believed that man was the assassin. He got fired, I think over his public associations with me, he got a settlement and he went to law school. I do not know how prosperous his practise was then or now. It used to be largely DWIs. I tried to discourage his eggs and sausage solutions without success and when I got that story in Memphis FBI records and sent it to him I did not hear from him again. It was a college student visiting and aunt who wanted to east, no more.

When I first heard of Bill Pepper he was a New York lawyer and a friend of Mark Lane. He and Flo Kennedy represented Jerry Ray before the House assassins. From others I heard that he planned a book on the King assassination back then. He never told me that. Then a couple of years ago he came here. He was Ray's lawyer. I let him see and copy whatever he wanted and I got a student to do more of it for him. I have no idea what he or she c copied or were really interested in.

About a year or so before HBO aired that Trial of James Earl Ray Bill phoned me from England, where he practises law. He said that independent TV there was going to do that trial bit. He asked me to go to work on it for pay and to appear on it. I declined both.

Then they got together with Warners and did the show. I've not seen it. I've heard enough. What was presented as new evidence wasn't evidence at all, but the viewer had no way of knowing that. That and more like it is what I expected and wanted no part of. I'm sure he is a bright guy and he seems to have money.

The produce Liberto has New Orleans kin. Perhaps comes from there. I do not know whether they were connected with Marcello and it makes no difference to me.

When I was Ray's investigator and was investigating to make the case for the habeas corpus petition I interviewed Powers. I did again when collecting witnesses for the evidentiary hearing. He was part of my proof that Ray was not even there and he and the other one I used were both credible. He showed no signs of any kind of apprehension and said nothing at all like the present story. He was solid under cross examination and in court gave no indication of his present story. Which I do not believe. Not any part of it except the mistress part, which is Nobody's business. I also do not believe that he could have kept $90 of $100,000 back from the hit man and lived. If he were really telling the truth and wanted immunity in return for the whole story he would not have left all the holes in his story and would have said more that could be proven instead of that childish tale with all it leaves unexplained and in its context impossible to explain.

After Pepper broke the story in the London Observer a woman reporter for the Nashville Tennesean phoned me to check some names and learn what I had. I told her I was not able to do any checking for her but she was welcome to come and see and copy whatever she wanted. I also told her about an index she would find helpful. She spoke to her editor, phoned me back and was in Frederick the night of Friday, December 17. She worked until my bedtime, the 18th and was here the next morning before daylight and worked until she had to catch her plane on Sunday. She worked hard and I am inclined to believe well. It is for a story in this coming Sunday's paper. She said she'll send me a copy. I did not ask her what the story will be or say and do not know if she even knew. I suspect it will be debunking.

As with the JFK assassination, all these nitty and impossible stories do get attention and they destroy all credibility. They also help those who did wrong.

You mention Crazy Harry. I hear nothing at all about him or about his book or any appearances. I have made no inquiries about it but I suspect the sales are not what was anticipated. The few things I've heard say it stinks. My belief is that C & G will not want to publish him again, only a belief, and my suspicion is that he'll publish himself what their libel lawyer took out that, crazy as he is, he believes.

Some body else mentioned Joe Riley, respectfully, and I think in connection with the medical evidence. Maybe sent me something he wrote. I'll be glad to answer any questions he may have that I can but I do not want to initiate any general correspondence because there is much I am into, much else I want to do, and feeble and also do not

want to tire myself in extra work, the only alternative to having it take the time I am spending on work. I've forgotten who it was but he was very respectful of what Riley had done.

Now if you want to be sure that Crazy Harry doesnot accuse you and me of the King assassination, you'd better find a way if slipping Sue Fitch some forgetting drops. Remember that FBI record I sent you with a name that had to be hers excised?

He said that before his killing of the truth appeared. Meaning that he'd self-publish in Baltimore.

There is probably more of that Memphis Madness I do not remember now but if you have any more questions, ask me.

Our best,

Harold